

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

DECEMBER 9, 1861.

Agreeably to notice, Mr. GRIMES asked and obtained leave to bring in the following bill; which was read twice, referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

DECEMBER 11, 1861.

Reported by Mr. GRIMES with amendments, viz: Insert the words printed in *italics*; considered as in Committee of the Whole, and postponed to, and made the special order of the day for to-morrow at one o'clock.

A BILL

To further promote the efficiency of the navy.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That whenever the name of any naval officer now in the ser-
4 vice, or who may hereafter be in the service of the United
5 States, shall have been borne on the Naval Register forty
6 years, he shall be retired from active service, and his name
7 entered on the retired list of officers of the grade to which
8 he belonged at the time of such retirement.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the President
2 of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to assign
3 any officer who may be retired under the preceding section

4 of this act to shore duty, and such officer thus assigned shall
5 receive the full shore pay of his grade while so employed.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the President
2 of the United States *by and with the advice and consent*
3 *of the Senate*, shall have the authority to detail from the
4 retired list of the navy for the command of squadrons and
5 single ships such officers as he may believe that the good
6 of the service requires to be thus placed in command;
7 and such officers may, if upon the recommendation of the
8 President of the United States they shall receive a vote of
9 thanks of Congress for their services and gallantry in action
10 against an enemy, be restored to the active list, and not
11 otherwise.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the President of
2 the United States shall have the authority to select any officer
3 for the grades of captain or commander in the navy, and
4 assign him to the command of a squadron with the rank and
5 title of a "flag officer;" and any officer thus assigned shall
6 have the same authority and receive the same obedience from
7 the commanders of ships in his squadron holding commissions
8 of an older date than his that he would be entitled to receive
9 were his commission the oldest.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That all officers
2 retired under the provisions of this act shall receive the
3 retired pay of this grade as now fixed by law.

1 SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That promotions
2 shall be made in place of the officers retired under the pro-
3 visions of this bill, as is now provided by law.

1 SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That the Secretary
2 of the Navy be, and is hereby, authorized to cause two hun-
3 dred "medals of honor" to be prepared, with suitable emble-
4 matic devices, which shall be bestowed upon such petty
5 officers, seamen, landsmen, and marines, as shall most distin-
6 guish themselves by their gallantry in action and other sea-
7 manlike qualities during the present war, and that the sum
8 of one thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby, appro-
9 priated, out of any money in the treasury, for the purpose of
10 carrying this section into effect.

1 SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That the hours of
2 labor in the navy yards of the United States shall be the
3 same as in the private ship yards at the post where such
4 navy yard is established, and the wages to *all* be paid to
5 employees in such yards shall be, *as near as may be*, the
6 average price paid to employees *of the same grade* in private
7 ship yards in the same vicinity, *to be determined by the com-*
8 *mandant of the navy yard.*